

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2491

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, PINT, PINR, CH
SUBJ: LO JUI-CHING'S FUNERAL

REF: A. PEKING 2451; B. PEKING 2367; C. PEKING 2350

1. SUMMARY. CCP CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG AND MOST OF THE PEKING-BASED MEMBERS OF THE POLITBURO TURNED OUT FOR THE AUGUST 12 MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MILITARY LEADER LO JUI-CHING, CCP VICE CHAIRMAN AND PLA CHIEF OF STAFF TENG HSIAO-PING EULOGIZED LO'S PAST CONTRIBUTIONS AND HIS DOGGED RESISTANCE TO THE "LIN PIAO ANTI-PARTY CLIQUE" DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. TENG PRAISED LO FOR HIS EFFORTS IN "SEEKING TRUTH FROM FACTS"--A REFERENCE TO LO'S PERSISTENT ARGUMENTS FOR A MODERN, PROFESSIONAL ARMY. END SUMMARY.

2. CCP CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG, VICE CHAIRMEN YEH CHIEN-YING, TENG HSIAO-PING, LI HSIEN-NIEN, WANG TUNG-HSING AND MOST OF THE PEKING-BASED MEMBERS OF THE POLITBURO ATTENDED THE AUGUST 12 MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LO JUI-CHING WHO DIES ON AUGUST 3. LO HAD BEEN THE SECRETARY OF THE CCP'S AUTHORITY-CONFIDENTIAL

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TATIVE MILITARY COMMISSION. YEH PRESIDED OVER THE SERVICE AND CCP VICE CHAIRMAN AND PLA CHIEF OF STAFF TENG HSIAO-PING GAVE THE EULOGY. TENG RECALLED LO'S PRE-CULTURAL REVOLUTION CONTRIBUTIONS AS MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY, VICE PREMIER, AND PLA CHIEF OF STAFF. TENG PRAISED LO FOR HIS DOGGED RESISTANCE TO THE "LIN PIAO ANTI-PARTY CLIQUE" AND LIN'S ATTEMPTS TO PREVENT INCREASED TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR

THE ARMY. MOREOVER, TENG UNDERSCORED LO'S WILLINGNESS TO "SEEK TRUTH FROM FACTS" IN ANALYSING NEW HISTORICAL CONDITIONS--A REFERENCE TO LO'S ARGUMENTS THAT THE PLA SHOULD ADAPT TO MODERN CONDITIONS AND ADOPT MODERN METHODS OF WARFARE, AND NOT BLINDLY FOLLOW ACCEPTED DOGMA.

3. LO STOOD AS A SYMBOL OF A MODERN, PROFESSIONAL ARMY. PURGED DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION FOR ADVOCATING CONVENTIONAL MILITARY TACTICS AND DEPLOYMENT OF MODERN WEAPONS TO RESIST THE UNITED STATES SHOULD THE VIETNAM WAR SPREAD INTO CHINA, LO WAS REHABILITATED IN THE SUMMER OF 1975 WHEN TENG, YEH AND OTHER MILITARY LEADERS WERE ATTEMPTING TO REVITALIZE THE PLA. ALTHOUGH HE APPARENTLY DID NOT PLAY MORE THAN AN ADVISORY ROLE IN RECENT YEARS, THE IMPRESSIVE TURNOUT FOR HIS MEMORIAL SERVICE NOT ONLY SERVED AS A TRIBUTE TO LO'S PAST CONTRIBUTIONS AND RESISTANCE TO LIN PIAO, BUT ALSO HIGHLIGHTED LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT TO THE GOAL OF A MODERNIZED ARMY, HOWEVER CONTROVERSIAL THE SUBJECT REMAINS. RECENT MEDIA ARTICLES STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT THE CONCEPT OF A "PEOPLE'S WAR," THE ROLE OF THE MILITIA, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF WEAPONS IN MODERN WARFARE ARE BEING HOTLY DEBATED (REFTELS).

4. A FOOTNOTE: CCP CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG AND OTHER POLITBURO MEMBERS PAID THEIR LAST RESPECTS TO LO'S REMAINS ON AUGUST 11. THE EVENT WAS COVERED IN THE AUGUST 12 PEOPLE'S DAILY.
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AS IF TO SYMBOLIZE HUA'S, AND POSSIBLY YEH'S, DISAGREEMENT WITH TENG ON A NUMBER OF MILITARY-RELATED ISSUES, THE FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPH DID NOT INCLUDE PLA CHIEF OF STAFF TENG HSIAO-PING. ONLY HUA AND YEH WERE SEEN STANDING BEHIND THE BIER.
TENG'S OMISSION STRIKES US AS ODD WHEN ONLY LAST MONTH PRC LEADERS WERE EMPHASIZING "DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM" AND UNITY. WOODCOCK

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